

PH0356506

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 23 1976

DATE ENTERED DEC 22 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **

Cathedral of the Sacred Heart (Roman Catholic)

AND/OR COMMON

Sacred Heart Cathedral (R.C.) - Newark Cathedral - R.C.

2 LOCATIONSTREET & NUMBER 89 Ridge St. (Sixth Ave. - front,
Ridge St., Park Ave., Clifton Ave.)

CITY, TOWN

Newark

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10th

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

013

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Cathedral of the Sacred Heart - Archdiocese of Newark - R.C.

STREET & NUMBER

89 Ridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Newark

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

07104

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Essex County Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

High Street

CITY, TOWN

Newark

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#2186.36)

DATE

1968

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN

P. O. Box 1420

STATE

Trenton

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT
☒GOOD
___FAIR

___DETERIORATED
___RUINS
___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___UNALTERED
☒ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE
___MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Sacred Heart Church

Original

According to a contemporary account the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart was to be built in the style of 13th century Continental Gothic. "The interior, exclusive of atrium and rear chapel will be 258 feet in length and 86 feet wide. The interior of the transept will be 44 feet in width and the entire seating capacity will be 2,500, with standing room for many more. The edifice will be surmounted by two towers, one 300 feet and the other 275 feet high. The materials to be used are marble, granite, steel, and quartered oak." (New York Times 3/26/1898.)

Present

Originally designed by Jeremiah O'Rourke of Newark in 1897, the Sacred Heart Cathedral was essentially a French Gothic style cathedral which was enhanced in its style by Isaac E. Ditmars and finished off by Paul C. Reilly in 1954.

Built of gray granite this huge Cathedral towers high over the adjacent Branch Brook City Park.

This cruciform plan edifice is 365 feet in length at the extremes - from the front buttressed towers to the apsidal chapel. The extreme width at the transepts is 165 feet.

The front facade has two enormous diagonally oriented towers flanking a Great Rose Window with tracery which is 33 to 35 feet in diameter. These buttressed towers, which are approximately 46 feet square at the base, are broken into four tiers and have an abundance of Gothic arched tracery windows with label modlings. The towers (232 feet high) have pointed roofs and are capped by an assortment of finials and crockets. The width of the front facade, from one tower to the other, is 140 feet.

The length of the Nave and the Aisles, from the front Rose Window to the Transepts is 150 feet. The width of the Nave and Aisles on the exterior is 119 feet. There are six Nave bays, only five of which are visible on the exterior; each 25 feet wide divided by buttresses. Each bay, save the one obscured by the front towers, have Gothic arched tracery windows.

The Transepts are 63 feet wide and rise to 130 feet at the roof peak (same as the Nave peak). Each transept entrance has a 32 foot Great Rose Window within a tracery window. The fleche at the intersection of the transepts and the nave is the highest point of the cathedral. This fleche is copper covered.

The apse is 60 feet long and surrounded by an ambulatory which branches off into apsidal chapels, one of which is a Lady Chapel.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☒ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☒ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☒ ART	☒ ENGINEERING	☒ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sacred Heart Cathedral, the largest completed French Gothic Cathedral in America, is one of the six largest cathedrals in the United States. Designed by Jeremiah O'Rourke of Newark, this is his greatest masterpiece.

Although there are larger single Great Rose Windows in the United States, the three Rose Windows of the Sacred Heart are probably the largest and finest set of three in any single North American religious edifice.

Other architects involved in constructing the cathedral were Isaac Ditmars and Paul C. Reilly while interior decorator Gonippo Raggi of Rome designed the stained glass, the tile mosaics, and much of the interior decor.

ARCHITECTURE

The cathedral is undoubtedly the best example of French Gothic Revival architecture in New Jersey and one of the ten-most imposing edifices of its kind in the United States. The Great Rose Windows in the cathedral are the finest and largest set of three in North America.

Jeremiah O'Rourke, (1833-1915), the design architect, a disciple of Pugin, emigrated to Newark in 1850 where he resided until his death in 1915. O'Rourke designed a number of New Jersey Roman Catholic structures: Camden Cathedral (1864), Holy Cross, other religious edifices in Newark (St. Josephs, St. Aloysius, and St. Michaels), as numerous other urban churches in addition to a group of buildings at Seton Hall University. For a brief time O'Rourke was the United States Supervising Architect.

It was around O'Rourke's designs and early construction which all subsequent architects and buildings closely followed.

Issac E. Ditmars (1850-1934), of the architecture firm Schickel and Ditmars, was the second architect of the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Schickel and Ditmars were widely known as architects who concentrated on ecclesiastical structures and institutional buildings. Ditmars became supervising architect in 1910 after a dispute with the Diocese eliminated O'Rourke. Ditmars, who with Schickel, built St. Ignatius Loyola in New York City, St. Patrick's in Elizabethport, St. Joseph's in Paterson, Passaic's St. Nicholas, Jersey City's St. Nicholas, and the Immaculate Conception in Montclair, modified the cathedral plan, shortened the huge front spire, and designed the great fleche spire. In essence, however, Ditmars basically followed O'Rourke's original design.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Catholic Church in New Jersey - Joseph M. Flynn

The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart - Newark Diocese, 1954 et seq. Booklet published by the Cathedral

The American Architect - 7/28/1906

Newark Municipal Yearbook 1951-52 (p. 25)

The Advocate Numerous issues - 3/22/1952, 2/21/1953, 10/18/1953, 9/6/1973
6/27/1974 (supplement)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.6

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 569340 4511660
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donald W. Geyer

(Revisions - Terry Karschner, Historic Sites Section,
New Jersey Dept. of Env. Protection
609-292-2023)

ORGANIZATION

Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

351 Broad Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Newark

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

SEP 13 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12/22/96

ATTEST:

DATE

12/22/96

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Sacred Heart Cathedral

Newark

Essex County

New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

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The apse has a polygonal form, butting out from the transept, and rises to the height of the nave by an octagonal roof topped by a finial. The fenestration, divided by buttresses, has tracery windows. There are four small apsidal chapels which project out from the apse.

The octagonal Lady Chapel is in direct line with the apse and the front entrance. The roof of this section is also octagonal, capped at the peak with a finial.

Alongside one transept entrance is an independent octagonal Baptistry.

The Archbishop's residence, attached to the Cathedral by a narrow passageway from the apsidal chapels, was designed by Reilly and is of a different style than the cathedral, but harmonizes with the religious edifice.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Newark
Essex County New Jersey 034

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2 ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

Paul C. Reilly (1889-) became Ditmars' partner in 1928 and supervised the completion of the cathedral in 1954. Ditmars and Reilly designed many theaters and churches in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area. They took over most of the Sacred Heart design work in 1926 and worked on the cathedral until completion. Reilly personally designed the Great Narthex screens, and the Great Transept transoms, and was responsible for the supervision of the exterior completion, rehabilitation and implementation of the basic interior designs. Reilly also planned the power plant and the Archbishops residence.

O'Rourke designed an essentially French Gothic Cathedral from the very beginning, some features of which became more pronouncedly French under architect Ditmars.

While O'Rourke designed the cathedral Ditmars reconciled many details to particular problems of construction and did creditable modifications, but did not originate the French style, only enhancing and accentuating it.

Paul C. Reilly, associated with the project the longest of the three architects was responsible for an incredible range of practicalities of completion and some notable architectural and sculptural relief, such as his Great Narthex screen and complex vaultings.

If O'Rourke's exterior lacks the more delicate exterior of St. Patrick's Salisbury, or even the lacy detail of boldness of its great recesses and large spaces which emulate the great edifices of Chartres, Coen, and Laon Cathedral. The diagonal towers are unique, however, and attempt to add depth, width, and mass to the cathedral facade.

Until St. John the Divine in New York is completed somewhat as Ralph Adams Cram envisioned, Sacred Heart is complete and pre-eminent in North America for its own effects in rugged French Gothic.

ART

Gonippo Raggi and Sons of Rome are internationally famed interior decorators. Professor of Art at St. Michael's Institute of Art in Rome, Raggi is most noted for the interior of the Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of Victories in Lackawanna, New York, the Mt. Carmel Church in Orange, New Jersey, and the Mt. Carmel Church in Montclair, New Jersey.

Raggi conceived and oversaw many of the excellent interior and exterior art work - stained glass (well over 100 hand-crafted windows from Munich), marble, onyx, tiles, mosaics, bronze doors, tower bells, oak woodwork, and chandeliers.

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Sacred Heart Cathedral

New ark

Essex County

New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

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ITEM NUMBER

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ENGINEERING

The exterior supports great lateral thrusts along the nave without either flying buttresses, the weight of pinnacles, or visible Gothic other than buttresses flush to the side walls. The interior ceiling vaults are unsuspended and self supporting. Ingenious engineering is involved in support of the fleche spire rising about 130 feet further above the crossing roof completed by designer-engineer R. D. Fine. Steel was used in the framing of the main roofs, completed 1918-19 by local subcontracting builders Baier and Conrad of Newark.

The sound engineering includes acoustical Guastavino tiles as part of self supporting masonry vaulting, many chandeliers with directional sound amplifiers, unobtrusive radio-television broadcasting facilities, and the complete interlocking of the Great Organ and Chancel Organ from three separated bayboard consoles.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The Cathedral grounds, notable the front approach plaza and side entrances, feature granite terraces, horticultural plantings, floodlights and free standing Gothic bronze lanterns. The adjacent Branch Brook Park was designed by famous 19th century landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead and focuses on the Cathedral, particularly the Trancept facade and the towering fleche spire.

MUSIC

There are two organs, dated 1952-54 in the Sacred Heart, both installed by the Schartz Organ Company of Orrville, Ohio. These are the largest organs ever built by this firm. The Great Organ in the rear gallery has 92 ranks of pipes and 96 stops. The Chancel Organ has 43 sets of pipes and 53 stops. The organs are interlocking and have three consoles-gallery, Chancel choirstalls, and Lasly chapel.

RELIGION

The Sacred Heart Cathedral is the seat of one of the ten most populous Roman Catholic Diocese in the United States - the Archdiocese of Newark having well over a million and a half communicants. The seat of the Archbishops authority, Sacred Heart is the symbol of the Archdioceses control over all other Dioceses throughout New Jersey. The burial crypts of the Bishops are in Sacred Heart.

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Sacred Heart Cathedral

Newark

Essex County

New Jersey 031

CONTINUATION SHEET

4

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

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Newark Sunday Call - 6/17/1917 - revised plan of I.E. Ditmars

Newark Sunday News - Magazine 9/19/1954

Newark Star Ledger - 4/8/1928, 5/23/1954, 11/12/1972

New York Times - 6/1/1897, 11/11/1897, 3/26/1898, 6/12/1899, 5/2/1928

Biographical Dictionary of American Architects, Deceased - Henry and Elsie Eithey
(pg. 175, 449)

Correspondence of Paul C. Reilly, completion architect, on file in Newark Public Library

Sacred Heart Cathedral Manuscript, Materials in the Cathedral file

"Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newark, New Jersey"

Schatts Organ Co. (Orrville, Ohio)

Advertisement with technical data concerning Cathedral organ (installed 1952-54)



Sacred Heart Cathedral

Newark

Essex County

New Jersey 034

1976

#1

of 4

view of front facade

SOURCE:

camera facing N

NOV 23 1976

Neg at:

Donald Geyer

351 Broad St. Newark NJ

DEC 22 1976

DOE

PHOTO #1

(S)



Sacred Heart Cathedral #2 of 4
Newark 1976
Essex County view of rear facade
New Jersey 034 camera view S

SUBJECT

LOCALITY

SOURCE:

Neg at:
Donald Geyer
351 Broad St.
Newark, NJ

NOV 23 1976

DEC 22 1976

PHOTO # 2



SUBJECT: _____

LOCALITY: _____

SOURCE: _____

Neg at:

Donald Geyer

351 Broad St.

Newark, New Jersey

NOV 23 1976

Sacred Heart Cathedral

Newark

Essex County

New Jersey 034

1976

view of west
side

camera view E

#3 14

00E DEC 22 1976

PHOTO #3



Interior looking from Sanctuary to Narthex.

Nave to Narthex screen (famous)
& Great Rose Window

SUBJ Sacred Heart Cathedral
LOCA Newark \$4 1/4
Essex County 1954
SOUR New Jersey 034 interior
NOV 23 1976

for information only
reproduced from booklet on
the Church

D & E DEC 22 1976

(before
great organ
added to
left)

PHOTO #5